vitamin-A rich Indian rice varieties to be used by resource poor farmers are expected within 5-6 years.

Coconut Oil as Petrol and Diesel Substitute

3934. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coconut oil offers cheap substitute to petrol and diesel, as found out by a Thai farmer;

(b) whether Government would tap its potential and undertake research to help in boosting the rural economy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAW AT): (a) to (c) The techno-economic feasibility and viability of using coconut oil as a petrol/diesel substitute is yet to be established. Various institutions are already involved in conducting research on agro substitutes for fossil fuels and this includes coconut oil among other oils.

Measures to Combat Earthquakes

† 3935. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item published in Hindustan dated 18th February, 2001 under the caption "Desh Ka Koi bhoobhag bhukamp se surakshit nahi";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the effective and immediate measures taken by Government to settle the problems highlighted in the said news-item?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.